

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLEPS, Acting Director Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 29

CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 15:22-29. (Luke 23:26-43).

GOLDEN TEXT—Surely he hath borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.—Isa. 53:4.

Last Sunday we saw Jesus on trial before Gentile power. Today's lesson brings us to the central event of his saving mission to men. We must read all four accounts of this event attentively, reverently, humbly, for it cannot be treated even as other events in the life of our Lord.

I. The Procession to Calvary, v. 21. 'Twas a physically exhausted Christ that left the judgment hall. A night of vigil, mocking, buffeting and without food since the previous evening left him too weak to bear the cross. Then it was that a son of Africa, Simon of Cyrene, was "impressed" to bear the burden. The Romans demanded that the victim bear his own cross. He accepted the human help, but refused the aid of the drug. Matt. 27:34. Luke gives us at this point the incident of the weeping woman. Mark 15:23 seems to indicate that Jesus had to be assisted to the place of the cross.

On the Cross.

II. The Place, Calvary, vv. 22-27. Here we see him, the brightness of God's glory and the express image of his person, the incarnation of truth, in whom dwelt the fullness of the God-head bodily—"crucified." Sin has done its worst. The Scriptures are fulfilled, Ps. 22:16, Zech. 12:10. It was necessary for our salvation that he should die exactly as he did, Gal. 3:10, 13; John 3:14; Deut. 21:23. Even the parting of his garments was prophesied, Ps. 22:18. The presence of two malefactors had also been foretold, Isa. 53:9, 12.

III. The Passer-by at Calvary, vv. 29-32. The people and the priests joined in heaping scorn upon him. Even those that were crucified with him "reproached him." Yet he loved them all. There seem to have been no gibes for the two thieves, John 15:19, II Tim. 3:12. The cry of the mob now "save thyself" (v. 30). 'Twas spoken in mockery, but they spoke a truth, nevertheless: It was necessary for the good shepherd to give his life for the sheep, John 18:11, and by no means to use his power in saving himself. They did not believe on him after the resurrection of Lazarus; is it to be believed that they would have accepted him had he "saved himself?" To have saved himself would have been for him to take himself out of the hands of God—an act of disobedience.

IV. The Person on Calvary, vv. 33-40. In the midst of this awful scene, in the confusion of the mingled cry of the mob, there is sounded one note of triumph. As Jesus was thus "lifted up from the earth" (John 12:32), one of those, his companions, ceased to revile him, and cried out, "Art thou the Christ?" and, to be literal, "if so, save us." The other seems to have had his vision cleared, for he rebukes his fellow criminal by saying that their condemnation was a just reward for their deeds. Turning to Jesus he exclaims, "Remember me . . . in thy kingdom." The answer was immediate and significant, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." This is a graphic illustration of the whole meaning and symbolism of the cross. In his undying hour the Savior of men loosed this sinner from his sins and granted him the right to fellowship with him in the life beyond.

Jesus hung upon the cross three hours.

Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned he stood, Sealed my pardon with his blood, Hallelujah what a savior.

His Faith Triumphant.

Then God drew the curtain, for even he could not look upon that scene (II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 1:13). We do not believe the eclipse theory, but rather that God caused the darkness, another illustration of the closeness of man and nature, Rom. 8:20, 21 R. V. The dying cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me," was uttered when Jesus sensed the full and complete realization of being separated from the Father. Death is not annihilation, but separation, and Jesus was separated from God the Father because of our sins, Isa. 53:6. Yet in that terrible moment his faith does not waver, for he cries, "My God." Conscious of his personal innocence, but suffering for the sins of others, his faith is triumphant.

This lesson suggests that all who study it yield themselves to a searching self-examination. Such a manifestation of divine love should call forth our utmost confidence and our unquestioned trust in our divine redeemer. The revelation of the enormity of man's sin as seen on Calvary ought to fill us with an uncompromising hatred of sin. The story of the Savior's sufferings ought to impel us to a constant conflict with sin.

Those who witnessed the event of that day saw him "stricken, smitten," but God was in him reconciling the world to himself.

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DANVILLE.

November 23, 1914.

Howard Miller and wife, of Lumberton, and Clarence Roads and wife and baby, of Shackleton, were guests of the former's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, Sunday.

Mrs. D. W. Brown and daughter, Bernice, visited Mrs. Geo. Brown on Sunday.

John Roush is remodeling his house. Clarence Vance and family, of Sardina, are spending the week with relatives here.

Walter Lemon and wife and daughter, of Hillsboro, and Mary Dehass, of East Danville, spent Sunday with L. C. Stockwell and family.

Mrs. Walter Curtis, of Peru, Ind., was a guest of her grandparents, Wm. Stockwell and wife, Thursday. Mrs. Curtis was called here by the death of her grandfather, Noah Fawley, at Shackleton.

Mrs. Rachel Pence and son, Roy Pence, and family, of East Danville, were visitors of Mrs. Ella Wood Sunday.

Rev. Ruhl will fill the pulpit at the Reformed Church Sunday evening. As Rev. Ruhl is coming here to preach a trial sermon all members of the church are especially urged to be present.

Dow Landess, of Hillsboro, is visiting his grandparents, N. P. Landess and wife.

Joe Cochran, Bruce Jones, Dr. Cropper, C. C. Winkle and their wives motored to Hillsboro and spent Friday evening with Walter Lemon and family.

Hugh Stockwell visited friends in Hillsboro Saturday and Sunday.

Obituary.

Burch Wilson Mendenhall, son of L. H. and May Mendenhall, was born Sept. 29, 1893. He departed this life, by accidental drowning, it seems, Oct. 14, age 21 years and 15 days.

On the above date young Mendenhall left home about 12 o'clock noon to go to Mr. Lawrence Downings, near Russellville, in Brown county. In Russellville that same evening after dark a strange young man entered a store and inquired the way to Mr. Downings and he was directed and also told of this creek he would have to cross, which was dangerously high, as it was a rainy bad evening. He started out and was seen by others on the road to this creek, also one explained to him the angle of the crossing.

On Friday morning following a dead horse was found on the creek about five miles below, but nothing could be learned as to whose horse it was. The buggy and harness were found about a mile from the crossing.

On Saturday afternoon, Oct. 19, Mr. Edwards working in the field along the creek about two miles below the crossing discovered the body. Young Mr. Downings, the friend of Burch, was not looking for him as the evening had turned out so bad. Such in brief are the circumstances relating to the death of our dear brother.

Burch Mendenhall united with the Prospect M. E. Church 9 years ago under the ministry of Bert E. Smith. His education consisted of a common and high school course. He was a great lover of music and showed marked ability with different instruments and carried a musician's certificate.

His last public work was in conducting an orchestra at the temperance meeting here at Prospect on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Mr. Mendenhall was a noble young

man of good habits and of sterling christian character, beloved by all. He leaves a father and mother and one brother and a host of friends to mourn his loss.

Sad, indeed, are the circumstances of his departure, but we have this to comfort us, that he was ready and prepared to join the "choir invisible."

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CATALPA GROVE.

Nov. 23, 1914.

Rev. Moore will give a free stereopticon lecture on "Australia" at Liberty church Friday night, Nov. 27. Everybody is invited.

John Pence and family and Ed Lewis and family were the guests Sunday of Grant Lryman and family.

Mrs. Amanda Roush spent Thursday with Mrs. Clark Cadwallader.

Albert Davidson and wife spent Sunday with Wm. Davidson and family, of Frogtown.

Dow Landess, of Hillsboro, enjoyed Sunday with Elizabeth Cochran and Ailie Roush.

Wendell, Virgil and Alma Roush spent Sunday afternoon with A. E. Wilkin and family.

Mrs. Burch McKamey, of Chillicothe, spent last week with Peter Saum and family.

Robert Euverard and family, of near Russell, spent Sunday with Ira Cadwallader.

Mrs. Clemetine Davidson spent several days with Albert Davidson and wife.

Miss Ollie Wilkin is visiting relatives in Cincinnati.

Gus Shaffer and family called on Ed Lewis and family, Saturday evening.

O. L. Roush and wife and daughter, Una Dell, spent Sunday afternoon with J. T. Thompson, of Dodsonville.

Mrs. Henry Winkle and children spent Monday with Clark Cadwallader and family.

In the rainy season the wet, flat lands of Ecuador produce a vine yielding a fruit which, when dried, forms a vegetable sponge, said by some persons to be superior to animal sponges.

The athlete of ancient Greece trained on new cheese, dried figs, grain, milk and warm water.

FRANKLIN VALLEY.

Nov. 23, 1914.

Jas. Head, of Barberton, arrived Tuesday for a visit with his parents, B. N. Head and wife.

Mrs. J. L. Henry and son spent the past week with relatives at Marshall.

Mrs. Wm. Waddell spent Friday with her sister, Mrs. Grace McCoy.

Don't forget the oyster supper at the Carmel school house Saturday, Nov. 28. Everybody come.

Mrs. Roscoe Garen and Mrs. Wm. Waddell called Saturday afternoon on Samuel Garen, who is ill.

Geo. Henry and daughter, Ruth, spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives at Hoaglands.

John Free and wife entertained at dinner Sunday: J. A. Burnett and family, of Marshall, Jas. Head and Jas. Terry, both of Barberton.

Ruby Vance, wife and son, of Hillsboro, spent Saturday and Sunday with D. T. Holladay and family.

Roscoe Garen and family took dinner Sunday with Geo. Bumgarner, Jr., and wife, of Marshall.

Mrs. Samuel Bobb is suffering from an attack of tonsillitis.

Harley Suiters and family and Ray Boyd and family, of Marshall, spent Sunday with Elmer Garen and family.

Miss Drusy McCoy and nephew, Hubert McCoy, took dinner with Gatch Spruance and family, of Marshall, Sunday.

Samuel McCoy, wife and children were guests of Samuel Garen, Jr., Sunday.

Wm. Waddell and wife spent Sunday with the latter's sister, Mrs. Jas. Waddell, of near Cynthia.

RAINSBORO.

Nov. 23, 1914.

Miss Elizabeth Spargur is spending a few days in Hillsboro the guests of Miss Esther Cameron.

Mrs. D. S. Redkey, who has been visiting relatives in Indiana the past month, is expected home this week.

The first quarterly meeting of the M. E. church will be held at Marshall next Saturday and Sunday.

The W. C. T. U. will hold their regular meeting at the home of Miss Josie Spargur on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Misses Ruth and Eva Redkey entertained the Sunbeams last Saturday afternoon.

Scott Free spent part of last week with his mother at Columbus.

Mrs. Frank Waddell entertained eight little girl friends and their teacher, Miss Georgia Bell, with a dinner last Thursday in honor of her daughter, Goldie's, 8th birthday.

Mrs. Emily Shipton, of Hillsboro, is spending a few days here with her daughter, Mrs. Frank Austin.

Mrs. Kate Redkey, who has been confined to her room the past week, is threatened with appendicitis.

Mrs. Mary Hodge and little son spent last Thursday with friends near New Petersburg.

Miss Elsa Shipton, of Hillsboro, spent Sunday with relatives here.

The Happy Hustlers will be entertained on Saturday afternoon by Miss Elizabeth Spargur.

J. H. Ivers and wife, of Marshall township, were guests of C. L. Redkey and family, on Sunday.

About twenty persons from here attended a convention of the Pythian Sisters at Chillicothe last Wednesday.

Misses Eva and Mary Keepers, of Des Moines Io, spent Saturday night with Mrs. Mattie Mason and Sunday with Mrs. Belle Clyburn.

Word has been received from Mrs. George Free, who is in a hospital at Columbus, that she is recovering rapidly. This is gratifying news to her many friends here.

PRICETOWN.

Nov. 23, 1914.

Willie Turner and wife entertained Miss Carrie Landess, of Tyro, Okla., and Ursel Walker, of Hillsboro, recently.

Ervin Leininger and wife spent Sunday with Curtis Leininger and family, near Danville.

Jesse Cochran and family and Theodore Shaffer and wife spent Friday with Aunt Nancy Cochran.

Willie Barker and wife have moved to their farm west of town.

Mrs. Eliza Faris entertained a number of her friends Saturday evening in honor of her 76th birthday.

The young people of the Christian church organized a Christian Endeavor Society Sunday evening, Nov. 15. The officers are as follows: Home Emery, Pres.; Lizzie McLaughlin, Vice Pres.; Grace Smith, Sec'y.; Lee Barr, Treas.

Harley Young, of Norwood, is visiting relatives here.

The Y. P. S. C. E. will meet Sunday evening, Nov. 29. Subject, "Our Life in Christ." Hoyt Leininger, Leader.

Harley Roush, who has been very sick the past week, is some better.

The smallest bird is a Central A. n. can humming bird, about the size of blue bottle fly.